



**SOUTH KESTEVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE
YEAR 1971

SOUTH KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1971

Chairman

Councillor Rev. D. L. Scott

Vice-Chairman

Councillor R. A. Stanton

Members

Councillor H. W. Bailey

Councillor Mrs. C. A. Baker

Councillor J. L. Chapman

Councillor J. C. Clapton

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Councillor R. W. Stanton

Councillor H. Thorold

Councillor Hon. Mrs. D. N. Trollope-
Bellew

Councillor T. Whotton

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	H. Ellis Smith, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., Wake House, North Street, BOURNE. Tel. Bourne 2436.
Chief Public Health Inspector and Building Surveyor	Walter A. Chivers, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Wake House, North Street, BOURNE. Tel. Bourne 2436.
Senior Additional Public Health Inspector	John G. Bower, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector	John H. Freear, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
Analytical Chemist	Vernon B. Maxfield
Building Inspector	Charles H. Busby
Trainee Public Health Inspector	Robert B. Capindale
Assistant Chemist	Miss J. Atkin
Shorthand-Typist and General Clerk	Miss J. Rawlinson (Resigned 10.9.71) Miss S. Jackson (Appointed 31.8.71)
Junior Clerk	Miss N. Foster

Clerk of the Council	J. J. C. Goulder, M.B.E.
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SOUTH KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Wake House,
North Street,
BOURNE,
Lincs.
PE10 9AG.

February, 1972

To the Chairman and Members of the
South Kesteven Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my 33rd Annual Report on the work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors and Building Inspector during the year 1971.

1. STATISTICS

Total number of inspections carried out	.. .. .	5,805
Number of sanitary works completed	.. .. .	59
Number of letters and notices despatched	.. .. .	2,486

2. DETAILS OF VISITS

Water Supply	35 Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	766
Drainage	211 Public Health Act Nuisances	73
Animal Boarding Establishments	Building Regulations	2129
Act, 1963	13 Slaughterhouses	198
Piggeries	3 Conversion Grants	160
Drain Tests	62 Miscellaneous Housing Visits	566
Moveable Dwellings	48 Improvement Grants	928
Farm Effluents	3 Noise Abatement	3
Factories and Workshops	9 Disinfestations	3
Watercourses	2 Miscellaneous Infectious Diseases	34
Bakehouses	9 Planning	55
Public Conveniences	1 Butchers' Vans	6
Licensed Premises	11 Butchers' Shops	7
Theatres Act	6 School Kitchens	30
Refuse Disposal	5 Fish Stalls and Shops	6
Rodent Control	14 Food Preparing Premises	10
Petroleum Acts	49 Grocers' Shops	17
Ice-cream Premises	33 Poultry Inspections	16
Restaurants and Cafes	10 Condemned Food	3
Offices, Shops and Railway	Delivery Vehicles	1
Premises Act, 1963	41 Water Samples	34

Grocers Vans	2	Food Hygiene	89
Food Poisoning	16	Milk Sample	1
Ice-cream Samples	84	Qualification Certificate	1
Greengrocers and Fruiterers		2	

3. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) Milk

In my annual report last year, I made reference to the fact that plans were under way for a compulsory eradication programme to be introduced during 1971, for Brucellosis in dairy herds, and that the Milk Marketing Boards had started screening tests to assist in determining the initial choice of areas where this would be instituted. I now understand that compulsory eradication areas have been declared in Scotland, North West England and Mid-Wales, and that it is on the cards that Lincolnshire might be declared a compulsory eradication area in 1973. This must be welcomed by all those concerned with the purity of milk in view of the unhappy consequences which can accrue in humans as a result of drinking brucella infected milk.

Quite a number of dairy farmers in this area have registered under the Government's voluntary eradication scheme, and this has lead to a reduction in the number of samples taken by us in this area during the past year, but it was pleasing to note that all 4 samples taken by this Council and the County Council for Brucellosis were negative, and 16 samples taken for keeping quality all satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

(b) Ice-Cream

Thirty-three visits were made to the one factory in the District where ice-cream is manufactured, and to the several shops where ice-cream is sold by retail.

26 routine samples of ice-cream and 21 routine samples of iced lollipops were taken during the year. Of the 26 ice cream samples, 21 were placed in Provisional Grades 1 and 2, which is satisfactory, whilst 3 samples were placed in Provisional Grades 3 and 4 which is unsatisfactory, and two samples were inconclusive. 14 of the 21 lollipop samples taken were placed in Provisional Grades 1 and 2 which is satisfactory, and 4 were placed in Provisional Grades 3 and 4 which is unsatisfactory, whilst 3 were inconclusive.

Much additional time was spent in taking a further 58 samples of both ice-cream and various constituent materials used in its manufacture from our one ice-cream factory, as a result of a breakdown in the sterilising processes, and, of these 58 samples, 34 were placed in Provisional Grades 1 and 2, 23 were placed in Provisional Grades 3 and 4, and 1 sample was inconclusive. Eventually, the cause of the trouble in the plant 'pipeline' was discovered and put right.

Details of the samples of iced lollipops and ice-cream taken during the year are as follows:-

Ice Cream Samples

Date	Sample Number	Identification Reference of Manufacturer	Type of Sample	Methylene Blue Test Provisional Grade
23.6.71	1	M/1 S.K.R.D.C.	Ice Cream (Mix)	3
23.6.71	2	M/1 S.K.R.D.C.	Ice Cream	2
23.6.71	3	M/2 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1
23.6.71	4	M/3 Outside Area	Ice Cream (Choc ice)	Unable to sample due to colour.
23.6.71	5	M/4 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1
23.6.71	6	M/5 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1
23.6.71	7	M/6 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1
26.7.71	8	M/1 S.K.R.D.C.	Ice Cream	Unable to sample due to colour.
27.7.71	9	M/2 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1
27.7.71	10	M/3 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1
27.7.71	11	M/4 Outside Area	Ice Cream	2
27.7.71	12	M/5 Outside Area	Ice Cream	3
27.7.71	13	M/6 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1
11.8.71	14	M/1 S.K.R.D.C.	Ice Cream	1
16.8.71	15	M/2 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1
16.8.71	16	M/3 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1
16.8.71	17	M/4 Outside Area	Ice Cream	2
16.8.71	18	M/5 Outside Area	Ice Cream	4
16.8.71	19	M/6 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1
14.9.71	20	M/1 S.K.R.D.C.	Ice Cream (Mix)	2

<u>Ice Cream Samples</u>				
Date	Sample Number	Identification Reference of Manufacturer	Type of Sample	Methylene Blue Test Provisional Grade
14.9.71	21	M/1 S.K.R.D.C.	Ice Cream (Mix)	2
14.9.71	22	M/2 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1
14.9.71	23	M/3 Outside Area	Ice Cream	2
14.9.71	24	M/4 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1
14.9.71	25	M/5 Outside Area	Ice Cream	2
14.9.71	26	M/6 Outside Area	Ice Cream	1

<u>Lollipop Samples</u>				
Date	Sample Number	Identification Reference of Manufacturer	Type of Sample	Methylene Blue Test Provisional Grade
23.6.71	1	M/1 S.K.R.D.C.	Cream Lollipop	1
23.6.71	2	M/2 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	Impossible to test due to colour
23.6.71	3	M/3 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	2
23.6.71	4	M/4 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
23.6.71	5	M/6 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
27.7.71	6	M/1 S.K.R.D.C.	Cream Lollipop	1
27.7.71	7	M/1 S.K.R.D.C.	Cream Lollipop	1
27.7.71	8	M/2 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	3
27.7.71	9	M/3 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1

Lollipop Samples

Date	Sample Number	Identification Reference of Manufacturer	Type of Sample	Methylene Blue Test Provisional Grade
27.7.71	10	M/4 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
27.7.71	11	M/6 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
16.8.71	12	M/1 S.K.R.D.C.	Cream Lollipop	4
16.8.71	13	M/2 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	3
16.8.71	14	M/3 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	Impossible to test, due to colour.
16.8.71	15	M/4 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	3
16.8.71	16	M/6 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
25.8.71	17	M/4 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	Impossible to test, due to colour.
14.9.71	18	M/1 S.K.R.D.C.	Cream Lollipop	2
14.9.71	19	M/2 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1
14.9.71	20	M/3 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	2
14.9.71	21	M/6 Outside Area	Cream Lollipop	1

(c) Meat and Other Foods

I am pleased to be able to report, once again, that 100% inspection of meat at the three slaughterhouses in the District has been maintained, and the quality of the animals slaughtered has been first-class, with the good relations established with the butchers concerned continuing. The amount of unsound meat which has had to be condemned continues to decrease no doubt due to the efforts of our colleagues in the Veterinary profession and to good breeding and management on the farm.

The slaughterhouses themselves are in good condition and well maintained, and are visited several times a year by a Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Officer, when any minor matters requiring attention are rectified thereafter by the butchers concerned.

The following animals, a total of 1,259, were inspected at the three private slaughterhouses in the Rural District during the year 1971:-

Bulls	Bullocks	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
0	271	0	79	0	877	32

As a result of such inspections, the following unsound meat was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed :-

2 Beasts' Heads and Tongues	42lbs.	Actinobacillosis
2 Beasts' Livers	28lbs.	Fascioliasis
6 Beasts' Livers	85lbs.	Abscesses
1 Sheep's Lungs	2lbs.	Abscesses
1 Sheep's Leg	5lbs.	Bruising
1 Beast's Carcase and Organs	180lbs.	Septic Peritonitis
2 Sheep's Livers	4lbs.	Parasitic

Total weight of unsound meat voluntarily surrendered and destroyed during the year 1971:- 3 cwts. 10 lbs. as compared with 4 cwts. 1 qr. 1 st. 10 lbs. for the previous year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>(excluding)</u> <u>Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number Killed	350	-	-	877	32
Number Inspected	350	-	-	877	32
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis & Cysticercosis</u>					
(a) Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	4	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	3.14%	-	-	00.46%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
(a) Carcasses of which some organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcasses submitted for treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
(a) Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-

In addition, the following unsound food was surrendered and destroyed from various food shops in the district during the year :-

1	9lb. tin Boiled Ham	4 pkts.	Fish and Chips
9	Peach and Cream Super Mousse	6	Chickens
13	Strawberry Mousse	7 pkts.	Cod Steaks
4	Strawberry Trifles	25 pkts.	Cod-in-batter
1	1lb. Pork Sausages	3 pkts.	Buttered Kippers
50	Woppas	6 pkts.	Cod Fillets
14	Fruities	2 pkts.	Sausages
6	Sky Rays	10 pkts.	Beefburgers
12	Splits	1 small	Pie
16	Cider Gold	5 pkts.	Chicken Rissoles
4	Jumbo	11 pkts.	Rissoles
4	Wiz	2 pkts.	Chicken Joints
9	Kinky	1	Roast Beef Dinner
15	Choc Bars	1	Chicken Dinner
12	Oasis	1	Steak and Kidney Pie
3	Family Sweets	14 pkts.	Sprouts
5	Vanilla Blocks	11 pkts.	Peas
1	Dairy Ice-cream	6 pkts.	Beans
12 pkts.	Fish Fingers	11 pkts.	Pastry
6 pkts.	Chips	8 pkts.	Haddock Fillets

16 Strawberry and Cream Super Mousse

Poultry Inspections

There is one poultry establishment within the district which necessitates a weekly inspection, and during the year 2,550 broilers were inspected thereat.

4. HOUSING

Number of dwellings built by the Council during 1971	-	NIL
Number of private houses erected during 1971	-	201
Number of houses made fit under Improvement Grants during 1971	-	57
Number of families re-housed by the Council during 1971	-	90

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1971

1(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	-	345
(b) Inspections made for that purpose	-	566
2(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Act, 1957.	-	51
(b) Inspections made for that purpose	-	89

3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	- 45
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.	- 145
2.	<u>Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices</u>	
1.	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	.. 64
3.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</u>	
A.	<u>Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957</u>	
1.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	- NIL
2.	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) By Owners	- NIL
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	- NIL
B.	<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</u>	
1.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	- 5
2.	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:-	
	(a) By Owners	- NIL
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	- NIL
C.	<u>Proceedings under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957</u>	
1.	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	- 38
2.	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	- 15

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 3. | Number of dwellinghouses demolished as a result of informal action. | - 7 |
| 4. | Number of Closing Orders made | - NIL |
| 5. | Number of undertakings accepted | - NIL |

Since the end of the second World War, the emphasis in Housing has been on the eradication of Slums and the building of new houses, but, as far as this District is concerned, with the completion of the Council's primary Slum Clearance programme in 1970, and the slowing down in Council house building, the emphasis now appears to be turning towards the improvement of existing houses with the provision of all necessary amenities thereto. For some years now, the Council's Surveyor (Mr. A.H. Harvey) has had a planned programme for the provision of baths, basins, hot water services, water closets, etc. to those Council houses which lacked same, and I am now informed by Mr. Harvey that, out of a total of 445 Pre-War Council houses which lacked bathrooms, water closets, comprehensive hot water services, etc. he has now had these amenities installed in 368 houses, and, at the end of the year, similar works were in progress at 42 houses, which only leaves 35 houses still to be dealt with. This means that, of a total of 1540 houses and bungalows owned by the Council, 1463 are provided with these amenities. As will be seen under the heading 'Improvement Grants' later in this report, the Council's Public Health Inspectors have been busily engaged similarly in the private sector.

With the re-organisation of Local Government now so imminent, it behoves every Councillor, Officer and Elector to do all they can to keep Housing functions at local level. There are so many facets of this vast and most important duty of local authorities, embracing as it does slum clearance, improvement grants for older houses, the erection of new houses, allocation of tenancies for both old and new Council houses and bungalows, etc. that the vast pool of local knowledge built up over many years both by local Councillors and Officers may be used to the full to the benefit of those deserving cases whose computerised product may be much less than lesser deserving cases when dealt with at regional rather than local level.

Following the completion of our original Slum Clearance Programme in the Spring of 1970, when we had taken action under the Housing Acts in respect of over 700 houses, no time was lost in commencing a supplementary programme involving some 100 houses which, it was considered, had deteriorated sufficiently during the past 25 years to justify such action being carried out.

The accumulative total of sub-standard houses dealt with up to the 31st December, 1971, under both programmes, is as follows:-

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| (a) | Total number of houses in respect of which action was taken up to the 31st December, 1971, under the Slum Clearance Programme (1955-70) and the Supplementary Programme (1970-74) | - 750 |
|-----|---|-------|

(b)	Number of houses in respect of which:-	
(1)	Demolition Orders were made	- 526
(2)	Closing Orders were made	- 28
(3)	Undertakings were accepted to repair	- 76
(4)	Undertakings were accepted not to relet	- 8
(5)	Undertakings were accepted to use as agricultural or other stores	- 30
(6)	Action not yet determined	- 35
(7)	Number of houses upgraded	- 47
(c)	Number of houses repaired	- 63
(d)	Number of houses demolished	- 420

During the year, a further 22 houses were demolished, making a total of 420 houses demolished during the 16 years progress to date. When the supplementary programme has been completed, we must then review the position regarding those houses which, although condemned, are still occupied with a view to re-housing the occupiers and demolishing the houses then vacated.

The Council's Housing Standards and Construction Committee, charged with the duty of dealing with sub-standard houses, prior to improvements or to demolition or closing orders being made thereon, again dealt sympathetically with the several cases with which it had to deal during the year, and, I felt, tempered justice with mercy in appropriate cases. There were one or two 'murmurs' during the year that the Committee was not being strict enough, but it must always be remembered that they are dealing with what is probably people's most important possession, i.e. their home, and the Committee's record, of results, contained in the figures recorded above, speaks for itself, is as good a record as any other comparable area, and would not have been greatly improved upon if the 'bit stick' had been used without regard to any consideration for the persons involved.

After the 'slow-down' in the number of houses erected both in the public and private sector during 1970, the past year saw a swing back in the other direction, in the private sector but not in the public sector. No new Council owned dwellings were completed during the year mainly due to the policy of the Council to reduce the number of Council houses and bungalows being built, arising from a review of applicants on the waiting list. At the end of the year, however, 5 bungalows were in course of erection at Rippingale, 6 at Uffington, 6 at Haconby and 7 at Witham-on-the-Hill. In addition, the Housing Welfare Scheme, incorporating 22 bungalows, 4 flatlets, a Warden's house and Common Room at Almond Court, Thurlby, was well under way, and the Council had also approved a similar scheme, embracing 30 units of living accommodation, at Swinstead. In the private sector 201 new private houses were completed, as compared with 143 during the previous year, and, at the end of the year, there were 124 houses still in course of construction. The number of re-lets of Council-owned dwellings during the year amounted to 90 as compared with 97 for the previous year.

5. DRAINAGE

Work continued during the year on the provision of a new sewerage scheme for the villages of Castle Bytham, Little Bytham, Creeton, Swayfield and Swinstead, and good progress was made. It is expected that this scheme will be completed by mid-1972 and one of our major sources of concern in regard to possible pollution of underground water supplies by sewage discharging into the outcropping Lincolnshire Limestone in this area will then have been obviated.

Work continued also during the year on the Deepings Expansion Scheme, which will not only allow further building development in the Deepings area, which had had to be curtailed during recent years as the existing sewage disposal works had become overloaded, but also includes new foul sewers being laid in the villages of West Deeping, Tallington and Barholm.

A small scheme for the village of Carlby was completed during the year, with the sewage from the new sewers laid in this village being discharged by agreement with the Ketton Rural District Council into that Authority's new sewage disposal works provided by them in the neighbouring village of Essendine.

Further schemes which the Council had submitted for Ministry approval covering (a) Edenham, Grimsthorpe and Elsthorpe, and (b) Rippingale, Aslackby, Kirkby Underwood, Dowsby and Dunsby, had received Ministry sanction during 1970, and the scheme for Edenham, Grimsthorpe and Elsthorpe was in progress at the end of 1971. With regard to the scheme for the Rippingale group of villages, tenders were being received towards the end of 1971, and it was hoped that this would commence in the Spring of 1972.

Towards the end of the year, the Council received their Consulting Engineers' recommendations and drawings for a new sewerage scheme for Witham-on-the-Hill, Manthorpe, Toft and Lound, and, by the end of the year, arrangements were being made for discussions to take place with the Parish Councils concerned with a view to the Scheme being submitted for Ministry approval in 1972. Again, I would stress the need for this Scheme on account of the nuisances being caused by the discharge of sewage into a main watercourse at Witham-on-the-Hill and into the River Glen at Manthorpe. What is even more serious is the possible pollution of underground water supplies, and, whilst one cannot directly prove the connection, it is a matter for some concern that samples of water taken from the South Lincolnshire Water Board's bore at Wilsthorpe, less than a mile from the sewer outlet at Manthorpe, have shown intermittent pollution now for several years.

Upon completion of all these schemes, the only villages which will then be left without modern sewerage facilities will be Braceborough and Wilsthorpe, Greatford, Careby (including Aunby and Holywell), Couthorpe and Irnham, and I would hope that the Council may be able to get approval for a small scheme for Greatford, Braceborough and Wilsthorpe, where nuisances arise from crude sewage being discharged directly into old village drains or dykes.

During the past year, 211 visits were made by your Public Health Inspectors on drainage matters, as compared with 280 for the previous year, and 62 drain tests were carried out as compared with 78 during 1971.

Details of the number of house connections made to the new sewers in the villages served by the new Sewerage Schemes, together with the percentages of the approximate number of houses which are capable of being so connected are as follows:-

Village	Houses connected to new sewers			Approx. total No. of houses capable of being connected	%
	Private	Council	Total		
Billingborough and Birthorpe	340	86	426	486	87%
Pointon	61	54	115	115	100%
Horbling	104	97	201	239	84%
Folkingham	93	52	145	145	100%
Corby Glen	152	65	217	217	100%
Baston	149	72	221	224	98%
Langtoft	178	36	214	215	99%
Market Deeping	646	144	790	916	86%
Deeping St. James	812	203	1015	1154	88%
Thurlby and Northorpe	313	54	367	367	100%
Haconby and Stainfield	67	18	85	91	93%
Morton and Hanthorpe	224	141	365	365	100%
Uffington	72	14	86	90	95%
Carlby	38	38	76	76	100%
Little Bytham	86	26	112	113	99%
Castle Bytham	105	66	171	171	100%
Swayfield	71	10	81	81	100%
Swinstead	40	17	57	57	100%
Creeton	11	18	29	29	100%
Total	3562	1211	4773	5151	93%

In addition to this work, 10 new water closets were provided in place of existing pail closets or privy vaults, with the aid of 50% grants towards the costs incurred by owners in so doing, at dwellinghouses at Morton, Deeping St. James, Carlby, Castle Bytham, Billingborough, Stainfield and Market Deeping. The total cash value of such grants amounted to £454.75 as compared with £246.25 for the previous year.

6. CLEANSING SERVICES

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse Collection and disposal is one of the services carried out by local authorities which never decreases, and as more and more houses are built, so is more time and labour involved in collecting household refuse therefrom and disposing of same.

The constitution of household refuse also has changed over the years, and whereas three decades ago it was heavier and less bulkier with a large proportion of it consisting of ashes, now with gas, electric and oil-fired central heating systems taking the place of open coal fireplaces, and the use of much more expendable packaging materials in our daily life, household refuse has become lighter in weight but much bulkier. This is added to by the fact that, in any affluent society, no-one wants to bother to repair or re-use things, and do we not notice this more and more with say car components, radios, televisions, watches, clocks, etc. apart from everyday things like bottles, jars, cartons, etc. when we are told that a certain article is 'not worth repairing' and it is better to have a new one, when what they really mean is "we don't want the bother of repairing it!!" Even if, on economic grounds, a case can be made out for this "use and throw-away" attitude, it would be interesting to know what additional cost is involved in collecting and disposing of this unwanted material, either officially via the household dustbin or unofficially by local authorities having to clear up the indiscriminate dumps of refuse which spring up overnight in our lanes and hedgerows.

I was delighted when, during the past year, the Council was able to put into operation a weekly refuse collection service, and there is not the slightest doubt that householders living in the urbanised parts of the Rural District, such as the Deepings, have welcomed this improvement in the service, ensuring as it does that no putrescible matter is kept in a dustbin more than seven days, thus reducing the risk of fly-borne infections.

Three refuse freighters, plus a relief freighter, with 14 workmen, now carry out this service under the direction of Mr. Harvey, and refuse from approximately 6,000 properties is collected and disposed of at refuse tips at Billingborough, Thurlby, Carlby, Castle Bytham and Deeping St. James.

During 1971, Mr. Harvey was able to sell 31 tons. 8 cwts. of waste paper for £171.15 and, by so doing, not only does this help a little to offset the

cost of collection but it also saves valuable tipping space and helps to keep the refuse tips in a more tidy state.

(b) Pail and Cesspool Emptying Service

The Council's progressive policy during the past 25 years or so, both in regard to the provision of modern sewage disposal schemes and the giving of Improvement Grants so that dwellinghouses may be provided with more amenities, particularly water closets, has led to a diminishing number of pails having to be emptied weekly. On the other hand, many residents living in unsewered villages and who are still without water closets, still welcome the free weekly pail emptying service given by the Council, as do those residents whose houses are beyond the sewer lines, and who require septic tanks, cesspools, etc. emptying from time to time, which service will still have to be carried on even when all the built-up areas in the district have been sewered.

This service continues to be administered with a 1400 gallons capacity and an 1100 gallons capacity Cesspool Emptying Vehicles, provided with pail hopper attachments, under the direction of your Surveyor (Mr. A. H. Harvey), and each vehicle is manned by two men consisting of a Driver/Loader and a Loader. The facilities provided for the disposal of nightsoil at the Horbling sewage disposal works, when the Works were enlarged to provide for the villages of Folkingham, Pointon and Birthorpe, have fulfilled a long-felt need, and have replaced the objectionable practice of disposing of nightsoil in lagoons on agricultural land. It is always gratifying to me that very few complaints are received from householders regarding the collection of nightsoil, and this must reflect on the way the workmen concerned carry out their obnoxious task in such a satisfactory manner.

In addition to the weekly pail emptying service, privy vaults, cesspools, septic tanks, etc. at dwellinghouses and other premises are emptied upon request, either as a free service or upon payment. In those villages where no new post-war sewerage scheme has been provided, one free emptying per year is given, and a charge is made for subsequent emptyings during the same twelve months, whilst in those villages which are in fact provided with modern sewerage schemes, a charge is made for every emptying. Details of such work carried out during the year are as follows :-

Emptying of Vaults, Cesspools, Septic Tanks etc.

(a) Septic Tanks and Cesspools emptied	871
(b) Single vaults emptied.	<u>4</u>
	<u>875</u>

This branch of work resulted in an income of £508.00 to the Council during the year, as compared with £463.75 for the previous year.

7. WATER SUPPLIES

There are three main supplies of water, now under the jurisdiction of the South Lincolnshire Water Board, to the villages in the Rural District, and these are as follows:-

- (a) The villages of Baston, Langtoft, Market Deeping, Deeping St. James, Wilsthorpe, Braceborough, Greatford, Barholm, Tallington and West Deeping are supplied from the bores at Wilsthorpe and Tallington.
- (b) The villages and hamlets of Horbling, Bridge End, Billingborough, Birthorpe and Folkingham are supplied from the bore at Billingborough.
- (c) The villages and hamlets of Laughton, Aslackby, Pointon, Millthorpe, Little Dowsby, Graby, Kirkby Underwood, Stainfield, Dowsby, Dunsby, Haconby, Morton, Rippingale, Thurlby, Toft, Lound, Manthorpe, Witham-on-the-Hill, Carlby, Careby, Holywell, Little Bytham, Creeton, Couthorpe, Castle Bytham, Swayfield, Swinstead, Irnham, Hawthorpe, Bulby, Edenham and Corby Glen are supplied from the bore at Bourne through the Lound Pumping Station.

Uffington is supplied from the bore at Tallington through the Stamford supply.

Every Parish in the Rural District has a piped supply of mains water and, apart from a few hamlets and small groups of houses in the Fens, it is now possible for over 94% of the houses in the area to be supplied with piped water. This is of particular help to your Public Health Officers, when samples of water taken from private bores, wells, etc. are found to be polluted, as the use of these can now be discontinued and the houses in question provided with a pure and sufficient supply of water for all purposes from the Water Board's mains.

Excellent relations exist between the Department and the Board's Chief Engineer (Mr. N.A. Eagles) and mutual problems of a public health nature with regard to water supplies are speedily resolved in consequence.

Thirty-four samples of water were taken during the year from Public Supply mains and from private bores, wells, etc. Details of the results found upon analysis are as follows:-

Water Samples

(a) From Public Supply mains	10
(i) Number found to be satisfactory	10
(ii) Number found to be polluted	NIL

(b)	From private Bores, Wells, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
(i)	Number found to be satisfactory	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
(ii)	Number found to be polluted..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(iii)	Number found to be suspicious	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
(c)	Number of samples taken for Nitrate Content	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
(d)	Number of samples taken for Copper Content.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL

With regard to the ten unsatisfactory or suspicious samples, the occupiers of the houses concerned were advised to boil all such water used for drinking purposes.

With regard to the ten samples taken from the mains piped supplies in the district during the past year, I am again indebted to our Chemist (Mr. V. B. Maxfield) who carried out the annual chemical examinations for us, thus saving the Council some £35 to £40 fees which would have had to be incurred in sending samples away for analysis. The following are Mr. Maxfield's comments on the samples taken :-

Billingborough Supply

'This water is "very hard" in character and apart from a trace of copper (derived from domestic plumbing) free from toxic metals. It is of good organic quality and does not contain any excess of elements injurious to health.'

West Deeping (ex Peterborough) Supply

'This water is "very hard" in character but free from toxic metals. It is of good organic quality and does not contain any excess of elements injurious to health.'

Lound (ex Spalding) Supply

'This water is "very hard" in character but free from toxic metals. It is of good organic quality and does not contain any excess of elements injurious to health.'

Details of the number of dwellinghouses supplied from the Public water mains direct to houses are as follows:-

Aslackby and Laughton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
Barholm and Stowe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Baston	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	225
Billingborough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	370
Braceborough and Wilsthorpe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
Careby, Aunby and Holywell	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Carlby	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	78
Castle Bytham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	161
Corby Glen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	221
Counthorpe and Creeton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Deeping St. James	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1224
Dowsby	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Dunsby	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Edenham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	126
Folkingham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	158
Greatford	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59
Hacenby	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84
Horbling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	168
Irnham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Kirkby Underwood	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Langtoft	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	213
Little Bytham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Market Deeping	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	931
Morton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	359
Pointon and Sempringham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	127
Rippingale	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	195
Swayfield	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	68
Swinstead	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81
Tallington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104
Thurlby	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	382
Toft, Lound and Marthorpe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Uffington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	126
West Deeping	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93
Witham-on-the-Hill	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
																<u>6,233</u>

8. RODENT CONTROL

Following the launching of our first two very successful Rat-free Areas in January and December, 1970, covering some 6,542 acres in Billingborough and Billingborough Fen, Horbling and Horbling Fen, in co-operation with the Pest Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, we launched our third and fourth Rat-free Areas in January and December, 1971, covering a further 7,834 acres in Pointon, Dowsby and their fens, Birthorpe, Graby and Aslackby Fen.

I have been most agreeably surprised at the success which we have achieved with these Schemes, due in no small measure not only to the help given by the

Ministry's Officers (Miss B. B. Jones and Messrs. J. R. Lupton and W. Leeson) but also to the co-operation of the farmers themselves, who, generally, have taken part in these campaigns with much enthusiasm. I think it is true to say that the rat population in the area of the district covered by the first four areas which we have tackled has been drastically reduced, and it is only occasionally that the Council's Rodent Operator is called in to deal with the odd infestation here and there. We have now covered about one-sixth of our district with these areas, and we shall continue to form additional areas in the future until the whole district is covered.

Regular surveying of lands and premises was carried out in order to ascertain sources of infestations, in accordance with the Council's obligations under Section 2(a) of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. In addition to providing a free service for Rodent Disinfestation works at private dwelling-houses in the District, the Rodent Operator carried out similar work at business premises and farms, at a standard charge of 75p per hour with 75p minimum charge, which sum includes his time, materials and travelling expenses.

The Rodent Operator (Mr. F. H. Batchelor) again carried out his duties satisfactorily and efficiently during the year, including strict control of all the Council's properties, and the regular and systematic treatment of refuse tips, sewers, sewer dykes, parish watercourses and sewage disposal installations. In addition 2017 private dwellinghouses were treated, as also were 54 business and farm premises. In consequence of all these operations, 3396 inspections were carried out.

9. PETROLEUM ACTS

During the past year, 49 visits were made to premises where petroleum spirit is stored, and 99 licences were issued by the Department as compared with 106 for the previous year, after storage conditions had been found to be satisfactory, and when the usual safety precautions had been found to have been complied with.

10. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) Discretionary Grants

(i)	Number of applications received during the year	-	60
(ii)	Number approved	-	49
(iii)	Number rejected	-	NIL
(iv)	Number still under consideration at the end of the year	-	8
(v)	Number of applications not proceeded with	-	3
(vi)	Total cash value of Grants approved during the year	-	£40,605.00

(b) Standard Grants

(i)	Number of applications received during the year	-	18
(ii)	Number approved	-	15
(iii)	Number rejected	-	NIL
(iv)	Number still under consideration at the end of the year	-	1
(v)	Number of applications not proceeded with	-	2
(vi)	Total cash value of Grants approved during the year	-	£2,412.00

As will be seen from the details of visits on Page 3 of this Report, 928 visits were made in connection with Improvement Grants, this being about 25% of the total number of visits carried out by the Public Health Inspectors on all types of work, but I would estimate that at least 50% of their time is spent on Improvement Grant work, involving as it does preliminary surveys of houses, meetings with owners and builders prior to applications being submitted, checking prices and specifications, making further visits to houses after receipt of applications, visits during works in progress, and making final inspections upon completion before payment of grant is made. As will be realised, much time has to be spent by your Officers before any application comes before the Finance Committee, but there is a sense of achievement in the knowledge that someone's living standards and home comforts have been greatly improved.

The impetus given to Improvement Grants by the Government's decision in 1969 to raise the maximum amount per house which local authorities could give to owners to improve their houses from £400 to £1,000 continued during 1971, and the number of applications for Discretionary Grants increased in fact by 25% from 47 to 60.

11. BUILDING INSPECTIONS

The number of new houses erected by private enterprise in the District fell from 220 in 1969 to 143 in 1970, but this came back to 201 in 1971, and the number of Plans approved by the Department under the Building Regulations, 1965 has continued to average 32 per month, which is the same figure as for the previous year. A close watch is kept by your Building Inspector on building works in progress, particularly in the Deepings area where the larger estate development is taking place. The Council's Planning Committee has had to devote more and more time to the major aspects of planning control during the past year, but consents for straightforward and uncontentious planning applications, and for all Building Regulations applications continued to be issued out of meetings by the Clerk and myself respectively, and this delegation to Officers not only eases the work of the Planning Committee, whose deliberations on major aspects of Planning Control rarely last less than 2 hours at their monthly meetings, but also helps individuals to get started without having to await formal approval from a monthly Committee meeting.

When Local Government re-organisation takes place in two years' time, one

thing that will be missed in this area is the present 'link-up' of Public Health and Building Control in the same Department. I would again reiterate how helpful and useful it is, both to the Officers and the individual, to be able to discuss Building Regulations requirements and Public Health requirements at one and the same time in the same office, and much time is saved in consequence by all concerned.

12. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Although 34 visits were made by your Officers in connection with Infectious Diseases during the past year, these were mainly of a routine nature, generally as a result of the odd case of Sonne Dysentery, and no matters occurred of any serious nature to which the Council's attention should be directed.

Great strides have been made during the last decade in the appearance and hygienic condition of food shops, and whilst all food hygiene workers must welcome the protection from contamination of foodstuffs by the use of wrapping materials, one wonders whether or not wrapping and packaging is sometimes overdone. It is still of paramount importance for food handlers themselves to maintain hygienic standards of food handling and particularly in regard to the washing of hands after using a sanitary convenience and before handling food.

13. CARAVANS

In the Rural District, we have only two private licensed sites for residential caravans, for 56 and 6 caravans respectively, apart from 25 additional sites where only one caravan is stationed, and, during the year 48 visits were made to these sites. The two residential sites referred to above are provided with waste water gullies for each caravan standing, individual concrete bases, water closets, etc. and are well maintained.

One case which gave me personally particular satisfaction during the past year was that of an elderly couple living in a dilapidated old gypsy-type caravan in the south of the district. Although I had known of this case for some time past, the caravan was situated in an orchard 'off the beaten track' and the old couple were not causing any annoyance to 'neighbours' the nearest of whom was some distance away. The gypsy caravan had been in the same spot for over 40 years and the wheels had eventually sunk into the ground to half their diameter. The van itself had deteriorated considerably, and, in view of this and of the advancing years of the two occupants, I became more and more concerned as to their welfare and safety, particularly as they had a decrepit old solid fuel stove inside the van, the interior of which was obscured by smoke from the faulty flue pipe. When I realised that they were in ever-present danger of being burnt alive if, as seemed likely, the van ever caught fire, I knew that something had soon to be done to get the old couple into more comfortable and safer accommodation. Their way of life had been such that they did not wish to be re-housed in an 'old persons' bungalow, so it was decided that the only thing to do was to start an appeal to raise money for a better caravan for them. I was indeed grateful for the support given to this appeal, money for which came from far and wide, as a result of welcome publicity given to same by the local Press,

and the Deeping United Charities and Bourne Rotary Club both gave splendid contributions to the cause. As a result, I was able, not only to buy a good second-hand large residential caravan, but also, with the welcome co-operation of the South Lincolnshire Water Board, to provide them with a mains piped supply of pure water to a standpipe near to the caravan. Their previous water supply was derived from a dyke!

So often have I heard it said (and it was said by some with regard to this particular case) that if you re-house some people from slum dwellings, they will not improve. I was convinced that in this case their environment had been such that they had never had a chance to live in decent conditions, and it was so heartening to me that after the old couple had been installed, complete with new bedding and equipment, in their new home, they have continued to keep it in nice condition, and have justified my faith in them. In fact, one thing which I shall always remember is that when a social worker colleague called to see the old lady sometime after she and her husband had taken up residence in the new caravan, the old lady made my colleague wipe her shoes before she entered the caravan, and said 'I promised Mr. Chivers that I would keep this caravan clean and I don't intend to let him down!' What better reward could one ask for than this.

14. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following table shows the number of premises registered in the Rural District under the above Act during the year, the total number of premises registered to date, and the number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year:-

Class of Premises Y	Number of Premises Registered during the year	Total number of Registered Premises at end of year	Number of Registered Premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	-	26	10
Retail Shops	2	60	23
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	4	1
Catering Establishments, open to the public, canteens	-	8	6
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	1
T O T A L S	2	99	41

All the registered premises in the District have now received a detailed inspection during the past 3 years and most of them where matters requiring attention in accordance with the Act have been found have now been brought up to standard.

15. STAFF

Once a year in this Report I have the pleasure of paying tribute to my Staff and in Mr. Bower, I have as good a 'right hand man' as I could wish for - his work is thorough and his relations with the general public are excellent. Mr. Freear has carried out his duties conscientiously and efficiently, and Mr. Busby, with his practical knowledge of the building trade, keeps a close watch on building works in progress. I was delighted when our Pupil (Mr. Capindale) qualified later in the year as a Public Health Inspector, and we all wish him every success in his new appointment with Bridport Borough and Rural Districts in Dorset. Miss Rawlinson, who had been in charge of the clerical side for 7½ years, and who had been a first-class Secretary, left us in September, 1971, to get married and to take up an appointment as the Principal's secretary at Bedford College, and she was replaced by Miss Jackson who has proved to be a likeable and worthy successor. Miss Foster ably assists her and maintains a friendly and courteous approach to the general public.

In conclusion, I would thank the Chairman (Councillor the Rev. D.L. Scott) and members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support, and I would again pay tribute to the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. H. Ellis Smith) for his encouragement and sound advice in the many problems with which we have been jointly associated. I would also thank the Clerk of the Council (Mr. J.J.C. Goulder) for his continued sound counsel whenever it has been required, the Chemist (Mr. V. B. Maxfield) for his expert advice on chemical problems which have arisen, and my other colleagues on the Council's staff for their continued co-operation and courtesy during the past year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER A. CHIVERS

Chief Public Health Inspector

